

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 9, 15, 22, 23 and 25-27, leaves claims 2-4, 10-14 and 16-21 unchanged and cancels claims 5-8 and 24. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-4, 9-23 and 25-27.

Claim 21.2 (and/or other claims) stands objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Amendments were made to claims 21.2 (and/or other claims) to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 USC §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Particularly, the Examiner alleges that claim 26 is directed to a program per se. Amendments were made to claim 26 to recite that the present invention is directed to an article of manufacture, which qualifies as statutory subject matter. Therefore, this rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5, 9-11, 15-20 and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Thomas (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0198063); and claims 6-8, 12-14 and 21-25 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas. As indicated above, claims 5-8 were canceled. Therefore, these rejections with respect to claims 5-8 is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

These rejections with respect to the remaining claims 1-4 and 9-26 are traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the

present invention as now recited in claims 1-4 and 9-26 are not taught or suggested by Thomas whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention as now recited in the claims. Particularly, amendments were made to the claims to recite that the present invention is directed to a network system, a control system, an information appliance and a program.

According to the present invention the network system includes a plurality of information appliances, and a control system, wherein the control system includes response control means for receiving selection of an information appliance and response instructions from a user and sending a response command to the selected information appliance.

Further, according to the present invention each information appliance includes response means for implementing a response processing, and information appliance control means for receiving a response command which causes the response means to implement a response processing, wherein the response means of the information appliance includes a lighting device for implementing a lighting-on processing.

Still further, according to the present invention when receiving selection of an information appliance and particular response instructions from a user, the response control means of the control system sends a particular response command, which contains information for specifying the selected information appliance, to all the information appliances included in the network system,

wherein the information appliance control means has the response means implement a lighting-on processing of the lighting device if the information for specifying the information-processing, contained in the received particular response command, is indicative of the information appliance, and has the response means implement a lighting-off processing of the lighting device if the information for specifying the information-processing is not indicative of the information.

Thus, as per the present invention as described above an information appliance controller 10 broadcasts a packet to information appliances 20. The packet includes a network location (ex. IP address) of a particular information appliance 20 whose physical location is unknown. The particular information appliance 20 specified by the network location in the packet turns a light on to have the user detect the physical location of the device. The other information appliances turn off their lights so as not to confuse the user.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Particularly, the above described features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Thomas whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record as suggested by the Examiner.

Thomas discloses a system to remotely control appliances whose physical locations are known. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion nor is there a need to provide an information appliance controller which broadcasts a packet to information appliances, wherein the packet includes a network

location of a particular information appliance 20 whose physical location is unknown, wherein the particular information appliance 20 specified by the network location in the packet turns a light on to have the user detect the physical location of the device, and wherein the other information appliances turn off their lights so as not to confuse the user.

Thus, Thomas fails to teach or suggest that the response means of the information appliance includes a lighting device for implementing a lighting-on processing, wherein when receiving selection of an information appliance and particular response instructions from a user, the response control means of the control system sends a particular response command, which contains information for specifying the selected information appliance, to all the information appliances included in the network system as recited in the claims.

Further, Thomas fails to teach or suggest that the information appliance control means has the response means implement a lighting-on processing of the lighting device if the information for specifying the information-processing, contained in the received particular response command, is indicative of the information appliance, and has the response means implement a lighting-off processing of the lighting device if the information for specifying the information-processing is not indicative of the information as recited in the claims.

Therefore, Thomas fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims and as such does not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention. Accordingly,

reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(e) and the 35 USC §103(a) rejections of the claims is respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1-26.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-4 and 9-26 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of the present application based on claims 1-4 and 9-26 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of BRUNDIDGE & STANGER, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-4888 (501.42781X00).

Respectfully submitted,

BRUNDIDGE & STANGER, P.C.

/Carl I. Brundidge/
Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 684-1470